

Unit 8: It's only water ...



Water and Your Home

Many people in the world enjoy access to lots of clean, fresh water. How does it get to their homes?

Fresh water is pumped from a lake or dam to a water filtration plant, where it is filtered to remove weeds, fish and minerals. It is then pumped into storage tanks.

From the storage tanks it moves into underground water **mains**, which carry water to taps in our houses. When we open the tap, the pressure in the pipes pushes the water out. Water pipes can also be connected directly to wells or **boreholes** to provide water to houses that are not connected to the water mains.

We cannot drink less water, but we can find ways to use less of it for other things. Some ideas are:

- Repair dripping taps.
- Take a quick shower instead of a bath.
- Wash dishes in a sink, not under a running tap.
- Wash the car with a bucket of water instead of a hose.
- Water the garden at cool times of the day.

Can you think of other ways to conserve water?

Using less

In industrialised countries, each person uses up to 1 000 litres of water every day to drink, cook, wash, flush toilets and water gardens. However, in countries where water is not piped into houses, people use as little as five litres per day.



16

How money turns into water



You make a donation. Thanks!

Many non-government organisations (NGOs) do development work in other countries.

The money is added to the NGO's general funds.

The NGO also needs money for administration, such as paying staff and renting an office.



The NGO decides which projects to support.

The NGO forms a committee to decide which projects to support. The NGO works with partner organisations in other countries to design projects, such as building toilets or funding a community nurse.



Water for Everyone?

All humans need water to survive. In modern, industrialised countries, clean water is easy to find — we simply turn on a tap. In some countries, water is a luxury. More than one billion people in the world do not have access to clean, safe water.



Not enough water

In the **Developing World**, many people cannot get enough water for drinking and cooking. If they can find water, they may have to carry it long distances from rivers and wells. Women and children spend a large part of every day fetching water. This prevents them from doing important work and going to school.

If there is a drought, there is no water to collect.

Dirty water kills

Where there is no running water, people don't have flushing toilets and sewerage systems.

Human and animal waste ends up in rivers and can cause diseases. Every day about 6 000 people in the Developing World, mostly children under the age of five, get sick and die from drinking polluted water.

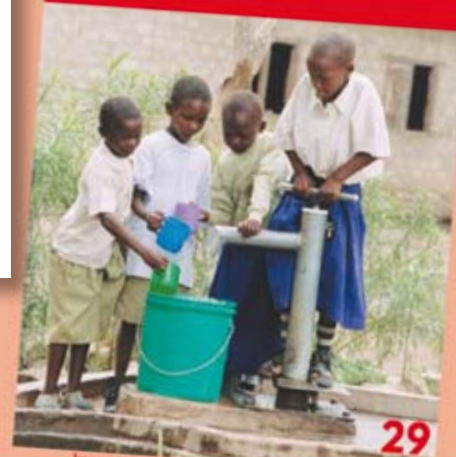
The United Nation's Millennium Development Goals call for the number of people who don't have sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic **sanitation** to be halved by the year 2015. This big goal can be achieved if governments make water and sanitation a funding priority for the world's poorest people.

28

A capped spring provides constant fresh water.



A protected well and pump supplies clean water to students of Shambarai Primary School in Tanzania.



29

Images provided courtesy of World Vision Australia © 2005

This traditional, hand-dug well in Mali isn't deep enough to reach a steady supply of water.

The NGO may receive extra funds.

AusAID, the Australian Government agency for international development, may give extra money.



Money is sent to the partner organisation.

Local villagers and the partner organisation buy materials and start work.

A village gets clean water!

Clean water means better health and less disease.



The project is reviewed.

The partner organisation and the NGO check that the money was spent as planned, and that the project is a success.